PARK BELL

ST. MARYS PARK IMPROVEMENT CLUB

Greetings Friends & Neighbors! ¡Bienvenidos! Mabuhay! BON GIORNO! 您好

FEBRUARY 1996

IT'S A NEW YEAR FOR ST. MARY'S PARK

On January 26th, St. Mary's Park Improvement Club had its annual installation dinner dance at the Italian American Social Club. After a delicious Italian family-style meal, the outgoing officers were honored and Past President Bill Fosset received a commemorative plaque for his service. The new officers were installed by George Ahern, a long time resident of the Park. President elect Graham Beaumont gave a brief speech and the rest of the evening was left to those who wanted to enjoy the band upstairs. In this month's newsletter, each officer will introduce him/herself.

Graham Beaumont, President

"As the new President of the SMPIC, I should like to introduce myself. I've lived in the park since 1988 with my wife, Josephine and our two dogs. I came to the U.S. from the United Kingdom in 1956. Although I am now semi-retired, I have worked in the field of mental health for many years.

Together with the other officers of SMPIC, we aim to continue the tradition of preserving St. Mary's Park as an attractive neighborly place with special emphasis on discouraging crime and being responsive to the concerns of the park residents.

To achieve our goals, we need your participation. A united neighborhood holds the key to successfully creating a safe, friendly and attractive place to live. I'd like to personally invite each of you to attend our monthly meetings in the recreation hall the second Tuesday of the month. At these meetings, we discuss issues affecting residents of the Park, such as traffic and safety issues and, there's always a little time left over to socialize and meet your neighbors while enjoying coffee and dessert generously furnished by our members.

Each year, we ask that each household in St. Mary's Park contribute $20.00 to SMPIC. This money funds the printing of our newsletter, pays for the maintenance of the six grassy islands and covers special projects like graffiti removal and the park picnic. The membership dues are due now so bring your money to the next meeting or drop off a check to Bill's house at 100 Justin or to our Treasurer's house, at 410 Justin .

I'd also like to hear from you about your concerns, hopes and dreams for the neighborhood. If you see a man walking a largish black dog and a small pug to and from the park stop me and say hello. St. Mary's Park belongs to all of us, let's help make it the best, most desirable neighborhood in all of San Francisco."

George Chen, Vice President

George Chen has been a St. Mary's Park resident since January 1993. He lives on lower College with his partner Dennis. George is a civil and structural engineer by day and our Vice President by night. He is very interested in traffic and safety issues in the Park. And, he hopes that he can help reinforce St. Mary's Park's strong sense of community.

Gloria T. Ambra, Secretary

"Just as our benevolent friend and neighbor Florence Kolos gave of her time and talents as President and Secretary of St. Mary's Park, I too have served as past President and now take the "chair" of Secretary. I promise to do all I possibly can, to the very best of my ability, to perform a most satisfactory service for all of my friends and neighbors here in St. Mary's Park. One of my desires is to see more and more of you, whether you have lived in the Park for many years, or have just moved in. I sincerely hope that you feel the same since we are planning fests and occasions without equal that will "blow you away," so to speak. And if, at the end of my term, you feel that I have done a satisfactory job, I'll expect to be asked to dance about the room with at least a few of you as we install our new set of officers!"

NEXT MEETING: FEBRUARY 13th at 7:30 PM. Please plan to attend.

Jewel Walli, Treasurer

Jewel Walli, our treasurer, has lived in the Park with her husband Scott for the last 2 1/2 years. Jewel teaches high school special education in South San Francisco and distributes our newsletter in her spare time. Jewel would like to see the St. Mary's Park playground cleaned up and would like the Department of Recreation and Parks to take a more proactive approach to the Park's maintenance and graffiti problems. Jewel also believes that the Improvement Club is important for everyone to be involved with because "neighbors need to know each other to get a better sense of community."

Marie Guinasso, Sunshine Lady

The Sun Always Shines in St. Mary's Park thanks to the efforts of our Sunshine Lady, Marie Guinasso. Marie has agreed to be the Sunshine Lady for yet another year. She makes it her job to send greeting cards to welcome new neighbors into the park, acknowledge new births and weddings, cheer up residents who are ill or lonely and console families who have lost a loved one. If you know of anyone in the park who could use a little cheering up, contact Marie at 585-3187.

Tom Ray, Sergeant at Arms

Tom is one of the newest residents of St. Mary's Park. Tom, an attorney by profession, is interested in updating the St. Mary's Park by-laws to make them better reflect the diversity of the park.

Crime Watch

Crimes in St. Mary's Park are down 18% when comparing January '96 to January '95 with a big reduction in auto-related crimes. However, the park did experience 3 incidents of petty theft from locked autos on Murray and the 300 block of Justin. There was also a grand theft from the St. Mary's Rec Center, a report of a stolen automobile on Agnon Ave. and one incident of malicious mischief/vandalism on Justin.

Past President Bill Fosset is volunteering to get a "Neighborhood Watch" program organized in the Park. Stay tuned for more details.

Promised Stop Signs in St. Mary's Park Still Under Consideration

Last year, past President Bill Fossett and Guido Guinasso of the Executive Board began talks with the City Traffic Engineer to get stop signs on College at Murray and Justin at Genebern. Our new Vice President George Chen will continue to monitor the issue. According to the City Traffic Engineer, Bill Kimberly, theDepartment is going to make a complete study of the traffic flow in St. Mary's Park, once PG&E has completed their work on the gas lines. In the meantime, we feel that the traffic flow directions in our park are okay, except the speeding problems along College, Genebern and Justin. George will keep in close communication with the City Traffic Department to see that this study happens and to let them know what the residents of St. Mary's Park want. Please come to the monthly meetings with any suggestions or comments you have about traffic flow in the Park.

Park Wide Garage Sale Proposed for Spring

We'd like to know how people feel about having a park-wide garage sale. The sale would be advertised and organized as a neighborhood event. Other neighborhoods have had similar sales such as the Bernal Hill garage sale which partially benefited the Senior Center on Cortland Ave. Participants would be asked to donate a small % of sales to the SMPIC. Come to the meeting and let us hear your thoughts on this.

Home Repair Service

Does your home need a simple repair or fixing up? Cole Hardware, on Mission Street, is offering a free Home Repair Referral Service. Just **call 647-8700,** tell them what you need, they'll ask you a few questions, and then refer the right contractor or handyperson to you. No job too small.

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